

Blockades Key Messages – February 17, 2022

Opening

- Good afternoon.
- I will begin to sound like a broken record, but I will likely start every update with a caveat: I respectfully ask that there is no onward sharing of operational details.
- While some details may seem innocuous, please keep in mind that they are tied to a larger operational and/or investigative context. This includes operational planning details and actions pursued under the new temporary Emergencies Act measures.
- This is especially critical for Ottawa as we progress quickly on our phased plan over the next few days. I would also stress the importance of there being no public political commentary on policing plans and/or response until we have things resolved.
- On that note, today's update will primarily focus on Ottawa as the situation in areas like Windsor, Emerson, and Coutts remain status quo. I'll be sure to inform everyone if there is a change in any of these areas.
- Though I will take a moment to briefly note that the protestors that have arrived at the North Portal port of entry in Saskatchewan were successfully relocated by our team to an alternate site on private land for a peaceful protest. The port remains open; trafficking is flowing freely.

Ottawa

- The operation in Ottawa as explained yesterday, is moving ahead as planned.
- The OPS, OPP, and RCMP members in charge of this have my full confidence on this complex execution. The plan is sound, was consulted Internationally by 40 experts in over 20 different countries, that have had very similar experiences in their nations.

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- This is a tried and tested crowd reduction technique and operation, as developed by Internationally renowned crowd dynamic expert, Dr. Tamara Herold, who is working with our officers.
- We have nearly completed the first phase of Stabilization. I can tell you that The City and policing partners have pulled together the necessary equipment and resources for this operation, including towing needs, and street blockage (the city has offered up 20-40 city buses to block off streets.) It is anticipated that the interdiction zone will be fully blockaded and guarded by 2PM today.
- We have 14 public order units that are ready to clear this city starting tomorrow. I need to caution that once the kinetic operation starts, it cannot stop. Multiple crisis scenarios and mitigations strategies are incorporated within to at all times keep this operation as safe and secure as possible.
- Make no mistake though, these groups are difficult. This will be a heavy tactical operation, and it will get ugly.
- The focus until tomorrow morning is to continue to get the less entrenched individuals and vehicles out of the red zone.
- I cannot specifically outline this red zone, however I can tell you that it spans from Somerset at the south side, to the river at its north, and while the East and West have fluctuations, it goes as far east as King Edward, and almost to Booth street.
- Communications strategies informing the public are well under way. A press conference is taking place this afternoon, which will provide the reassurance and necessary cautions to the public in the downtown core. Messaging such as requirements to shelter in place, close windows and doors, or to refrain from attempting to enter the interdiction zones, etc.
- Child protective services staff are secured and ready as well, all incorporated in this plan.

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Ottawa Update

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- It is important to note that is a tried and tested crowd reduction technique and operation, as developed by Internationally renowned crowd dynamic expert, Dr. Tamara Herold, who is working with our officers.
- Protestors in Ottawa have been warned they need to leave the area now. The have been clearly informed that those blocking streets, or assisting others in blocking streets are committing a criminal act and may be arrested.
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- What this means in real terms is the prevention of entry and exit from this specific area.

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- The goal remains to end this situation peacefully; officers are facilitating the departure of anyone who wants to leave.
- For those who refuse, officers have appropriate and lawful measures to remove them.
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- Our focus is on public safety, including that of any children in the area. A plan is in place with the Ottawa Children's Aid Society to ensure that children are protected and cared for during any action.
- As operations continue, those living in the area will be inconvenienced. Its unfortunate, but necessary if we are going to bring the occupation to an end.
- While we hope to avoid it at all costs, I want to be clear that there is a possibility of physical interactions between protesters and the police.
- I have fully confidence in the Ottawa Police Service, under the leadership of Interim Chief Bell, as well as in all the deployed officers working collaboratively to achieve effective operational results, with the minimum amount of physical interaction possible.
- Lets get this city back.

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If pressed

- At this point, no decision has been taken to seek the Minister's approval to designate any part of Ottawa per the Emergencies Act measures.

Emergency Economic Measure Order – Banks

- **Disclosures to date:** 18 entities (14 individuals + 4 vehicles)
- **Disclosed to:** Banks, Canadian Bankers Association and Credit Unions.
- **Disclosures from banks:** 1 from BMO (account frozen)

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- **Accounts Frozen:** BMO: (1) individual identified by the RCMP, account being frozen today. (1) proactive disclosure on an entity, account frozen.

Summary points from meeting for Commr info only:

- Meeting with CAMLO's (Feb 16th in the evening and Feb 17th in the morning). RCMP provided more guidance regarding Designated Persons. RCMP and CAMLOs agreed to meet every day for deconfliction.
- Banks acknowledge receiving the 14 names as provided by OPS/OPP. They reported that the names have been circulated through the CBA to a broader base of financial institutions.

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- The level of action already taken (restricting/freezing assets) varies between the banks. Some banks have flagged accounts, others have restricted flows, while some others are still determining the steps to follow (internal legal consultation). RCMP offered to go back to the OPP to obtain a letter that would provide some extra supporting information that would allow the banks to proceed on their actions.
- Banks requested clarity as to whether any information (or lists) from LE should be enough to impose asset restrictions/freeze. RCMP clarified that the onus is on the bank to do their due diligence on top of any information provided by the RCMP before acting.
- Banks requested guidance on the mechanism/steps to follow before lifting restrictions on Designated Persons. At this moment there is not set mechanism, however the banks floated ideas such as LE issuing a 'removal list' or perhaps the banks asking affected individuals to show up at their local branch outside of Ottawa to prove they are not longer part of the protest. Discussion to this regard continues.
- On February 16th, BMO provided a EMA disclosure to the RCMP. Entity not identified by law enforcement, but believed to meet the criteria of designated person and accounts are frozen. Limited information; inference is crowd funding deposit account. The information lacks specific selectors, therefore FPCO FC is currently conducting background checks to package the information to be forwarded to OPP (PROS 2022172166).
- Point of contact have been identified for IIROC and CSA regarding the disclosure of EMA information.
- Winnipeg Police Services reached out to RCMP for guidance on application of EEMO and streamline process with banks. WPS will assess whether or not they will use EEMO.

Issues raised:

- Overall, the banks are keeping a close eye in the overall 'trust of the banking system' so they are not seen as an arm of the government. Finance is aware of this concern.

Other Sites

Windsor

- Situation is status quo from yesterday – the Ambassador Bridge remains open.

Coutts

- Demonstrators departed yesterday.

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- The port of entry remains open; no change in status from yesterday.

Emerson

- Port is open; there is passenger and vehicle access.

British Columbia

- The border is flowing freely.

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